

RURAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

15 JUNE 2011

PRESENT:-

Councillors N.R.G. Angrave (Chairman),
P. Baguley, M.W. Barnes, G.E. Botterill, M Gordon,
L. Horton, S. Lumley, M. O'Callaghan, J.B. Rhodes, P. Chandler (as an observer)

Corporate Director (CM), Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods,
Conservation Officer, Principal Policy Officer, Administrative Support Officer

R1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Graham MBE.

R2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2011 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

R3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors B Rhodes and J.T. Orson declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in any items related to Leicestershire County Council due to their role as a Leicestershire County Councillors.

R4. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other Committees.

R5. TASK GROUPS

RESOLVED that

1. the Waste Management Task Group be reconstituted with the following terms of reference;

'To consider ways of implementing mechanisms for reducing waste going to land-fill whilst, at the same time, recycling as much as possible in an economic and efficient manner and to oversee a procurement process'.

1a. the Membership for the Waste Management Task Group, be as follows:-

- N.R.G. Angrave
- M. Gordon

- M.W. Barnes
- G.E. Botterill

R6. PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES IN CONSERVATION AREAS – MELTON MOWBRAY

The Conservation Officer submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Regulatory Services (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which sought to inform Members that English Heritage has invited a joint bid from Melton Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council to extend the Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas (PSICA) for Melton Mowbray for an additional year.

A Member expressed concern that such funds were often directed at shop fronts and that the town was generally untidy and that this issue should be addressed.

The Conservation Officer stated that shop fronts are English Heritage's priority.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Committee authorises the extension Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas for Melton Mowbray for a further year, in order to maximise potential funding for repair and restoration works within the town centre conservation area;
- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Head of Regulatory Services to sanction repair and restoration projects for buildings within the Melton Mowbray conservation area and authorise grant funding in conjunction with those projects;

RECOMMENDED that

the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee diverts the funding of £15,000, from savings made from the Public Access Project, to provide this Council's partnership funding allocation for the additional year of the Melton Mowbray PSICA.

R7. MLDF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) seeking Committee approval of the Draft Melton Statement of Community Involvement for the purpose of public consultation.

A Member raised the issue that underrepresented groups, such as the wider rural community, need to be targeted within the consultation.

The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods stated that a wide range of groups which capture the rural communities are included and that other groups can be added if requested.

The Principal Policy Officer outlined changes to the consultation process which include suspending the use of Statutory Notices within the local press. Such notices cost around £1,500 per insertion and so can cost approximately £10,000 per publication in which they appear. This prompted some discussion where it was noted that press releases regarding the consultation will be sent to the local press (Melton Times) and to parish councils.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Melton Statement of Community Involvement be approved for consultation.
- (2) the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods be granted delegated powers to

make minor amendments following that consultation and subsequently publish the Melton Statement of Community Involvement 2011.

R8. TOWN CENTRE - BENCHMARKING PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) for Members to note the content of the Town Centre Annual Report 2010.

The Chairman stated that car parking charges are an issue within the town, but that they are a core element of the Council's budget.

A Member stated that the Artisan Cheese Fayre, attracted 2600 visitors to Melton town centre over the previous weekend and noted that not many businesses are open on Sundays.

A Member commented that large numbers of general public now visit the cattle market on Tuesdays. The Chairman drew the attention of new members to the Cattle Market Masterplan.

RESOLVED that

the Melton Town Centre Annual Report 2010 be noted.

R9. LEICESTERSHIRE RURAL FRAMEWORK, 2011-14 - CONSULTATION

The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) on the draft Leicestershire Rural Framework 2011-14.

RESOLVED that

(1) the Leicestershire Rural Framework 2011-14 consultation documents be noted.

(2) delegated authority be granted to the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Chair of the Rural, Economic and Environment Committee a formal response to the consultation.

R10. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE PERFORMANCE- SURVEY RESULTS

The Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) on the results from the survey carried out, following a review of the service on the grass cutting service.

A member asked that an area of dense weed on the Saxby Road be checked.

RESOLVED that

that the performance of the grass cutting service within the grounds maintenance team be noted.

R11. MELTON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK TASK GROUP AND MASTERPLANNING AND DELIVERY STEERING GROUP UPDATE

The Principal Policy Officer presented a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to update on the work undertaken by the Melton Local Development Framework Task Group and to seek advice from the Committee on any areas which require additional consideration at this time.

Prior to presentation of the report, a member questioned why this item was reserved business. In response, the Chairman called for a vote to decide whether this should stand. Five members voted for the item being considered as exempt and 3 voted against. Members asked for a list of items considered to be sensitive to be made available. Corporate Director (CM) asked that members' comments be noted.

Members considered the role of the Task Group and considered that the opportunity for detailed debate was still needed, to cover the Sustainable Urban Extension, the types of houses being sought and affordable housing.

In response to a debate on the Membership of the Task Group, PPO advised Members that previously the Membership had consisted of the Policy Chairs, Development Committee Chairman to provide Development Committee input, and a mix of town and rural Members. Members felt that the Task Group needed to be smaller in number and made up of REEA Membership. Cllr Chandler was proposed as a standing observer. Members noted that the Task Group would be open to any Member.

Councillor Baguley left the meeting at 5.15 pm

RESOLVED that

- (1) That the progress on the Melton Core Strategy be noted together with the proposed policy direction.
- (2) The MLDF Task Group is re-constituted to primarily look at:
 - SUE
 - Affordable Housing in Rural Areas
 - Housing mix

and Council members are updated of progress regularly through Special meetings of REEA as needed.

(2a) The membership for the task group be as follows:

N.R.G. Angrave
J.B. Rhodes
J.T. Orson
M. O'Callaghan
L. Horton
P Chandler (Standing Observer)

R12. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

The meeting which commenced at 4.00 p.m., closed at 5.30 p.m.